

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3331

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009

DEPLETION OF OZONE LAYER

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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any policy and regulatory mechanism for reduction of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs) including nitrous oxide;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features of the policy;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for reduction of ODSs and the target achieved so far;
- (d) whether Government proposes to review its fertilizer subsidy policy to address the issue; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (e): India became a party to the Vienna Convention for Protection of the Ozone Layer on 19th June, 1991 and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer on 17-09-1992. Further, India ratified the London Amendment on 17-09-1992 and Copenhagen Amendment, Montreal Amendment and Beijing Amendment on 03-03-2003. The Montreal Protocol controls the phase-out of production and consumption of the Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs) only. Nitrous oxide is not a controlled substance under the Montreal Protocol. The country program was prepared in 1993 to phase-out the ODSs and India has taken the following measures:-

- The Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 have been notified on 19-07-2000.
- Fiscal incentives extended by way of exemption from payment of Customs and Excise Duties for goods required for non-ODS technology.
- Awareness Campaigns have been carried out.
- The Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund (MLF) for implementation of the Montreal Protocol had approved 299 projects involving funding of about Rs. 1200 crores for phasing out 47085 Ozone Depleting Potential (ODP) tons in production and consumption sectors of the ODSs.

As per the control schedule of the Montreal Protocol, the production and consumption of CFCs, halons and CTC are to be phased out by 2010. The production and consumption of methyl chloroform and methyl bromide are to be phased out by 2015 and production and consumption of HCFCs are to be phased out by 2030. So far, India has met all its commitments as per the Montreal Protocol schedule in phasing out of ODSs.